

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 19, 2002      LB 1309, 1310

good life for everyone in Nebraska, I hope that's not going to go away. But you have to bear one thing in mind that we're going to get into on the next bill, LB 1309, and we are not dealing with budget cuts. If I tell you that you've got \$50 to spend and then I come back and tell you that you've got \$40 to spend, that's not a cut. You don't get as much to play with as you thought you were going to get to play with. These are diminishment of budget increases in the general run. And what Senator... a lot of times I don't agree with even half of what Senator Chambers says. Good days I don't agree with 95 percent of what he says. But he did say one thing just a moment ago and that is that when you break a promise you've got nothing else to do. If someone gives you his word and he breaks it, there is no glue made that will put it back together again. And when we get to LB 775 and a few other things we're going to talk about that again. We can probably go from a deficit to an instant surplus; all we have to do is pass the 1998 budget all over again. We have to look at maintaining a government structure, but there is no way that we can give more and more and more. People say we can do a better job but you didn't give us enough. Let me tell you that there's never going to be enough, never. If we gave them every penny existing in the state of Nebraska it's not enough. Let's keep in mind on this amendment, FA919, that we're dealing with money that we dedicated to a purpose. Now if we haven't spent it for that purpose, we should, but it was tobacco settlement money. It was supposed to do good for the state of Nebraska and it will if we just leave it alone. The temptation is always there, well, we'll just take a little. You'll never take a little because you'll come back and you'll take a little more and a little more and then one day you reach in. This isn't like Joseph's pitcher--the more milk you pour out the more milk there is. There is a bottom to the pitcher. I'm going to vote to support this amendment and I ask that everyone else do. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Tyson. Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Jensen a question.